

## Iowa Communications Network

September 2010 Newsletter

# ICN Insider



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## Congressman Boswell Visits with ICN

On Tuesday, August 17, U.S. Congressman Boswell congratulated the ICN on being awarded a \$16.2 million grant from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The event included a panel discussion explaining how ICN's funding will improve broadband connectivity, which will have a significant impact on public safety across Iowa.

"A reliable 21st century communications network is vital for thousands of rural communities to survive and grow," Congressman Boswell said. "I have always fought for federal investment in broadband

in Iowa to support our schools, improve public safety and emergency management services, and grow our small business community. This \$16.2 million grant to the ICN will improve public safety and the discussion was valuable to understanding how these federal dollars will be used."

ICN's grant will enable Iowa Emergency Management to use advanced web-based emergency management applications and provide Iowa's Department of Public Safety with reliable, statewide, high-speed connections to local law enforcement agencies and public safety access points.



Pictured left to right: Lt. Larry Grant (DPS), Dave Lingren (ICN), Dr. Pamela Duffy (ITTC); Congressman Boswell; Lt. Governor Patty Judge, and Eugene Meyer (DPS)

*Educators looking for an ICN high school course for their students can post or view "want ads" at*

[IowaLearningOnline.org](http://IowaLearningOnline.org).



## ICN Joins Facebook

The "official" ICN Facebook page was launched in August with the goal of creating new relationships with citizens who use ICN services, as well as spreading the word to those who may not be familiar with ICN. The page serves as a

source of information pertaining to ICN services and is updated regularly with news, service updates, and photos. Facebook allows users to view the page and become fans of the page. With its popularity increasing, ICN uses

Facebook as a tool to keep up with the changing world of social networking. Social networking means the beginning of tremendous new opportunities for ICN.



**Message from  
Dave Lingren,  
ICN's Interim  
Executive Director**

*We are thrilled that many people feel that this newsletter is a great way to receive updates about the ICN.*

*What is even more exciting is the summer that we have had.*

*Everyone at the ICN is very busy with the many opportunities that ICN has received.*

*These opportunities will be a great step forward for Iowa, and a way for ICN and Iowa's private sector*

*to work together to take Iowa to the forefront of technology.*

## Assisting Schools with Technology Initiatives

Several schools are turning to technology to further educational initiatives. The [Iowa 1:1 Laptop](#) program was created to develop new innovative teaching, learning, and administrative practices. ICN provides many Iowa schools with Internet services necessary for the program. Schools see the need of increasing

bandwidth capabilities by doubling or tripling their previous capacity. The 1:1 program improves student achievement and learning, encourages student engagement, and broadens learning beyond the classroom. Eighteen schools in Iowa have incorporated the 1:1



program. Many educators see the process of giving each student their own laptop as a means of managing the cultural divide between different views of technology. The 1:1 program provides more opportunities for teachers and students to collaborate with other educators, students, and professionals throughout the world.

## ICN's Executive Director Search Continues

The Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) continues its search for ICN's permanent executive director. The ITTC has hired the research firm Management Resource Group, Ltd (MRG), located in Davenport, IA, to

perform the search for the position. There were over 100 applicants who applied, and MRG narrowed the number of qualified individuals down for a selection committee tasked to select two candidates. The selection committee includes members from multiple

backgrounds consisting of individuals from the private sector, the user community, and members of the Commission. The final two candidates will interview with the ITTC on September 2. Following those interviews, an announcement will be made.

## K-12 Connections Breaks Record

[K-12 Connections](#) soars to new heights breaking the previous record of video conferencing hours utilizing the ICN.

Iowa Public Television's (IPTV) [K-12 Connections](#) had the best year recorded, generating over 9,820 video conferencing hours delivered over the ICN's fiber-optic Network during the 2009-2010 school year.



Lewis Major, Polk County Conservation Board

Over 32,000 Iowa students, educators, and school personnel benefited from distance learning opportunities.

Users learn through live, interactive sessions without worrying about travel time or gas prices.

Through IPTV's free [K-12 Connections](#), students explore worlds near and far, interacting live with presenters.

In addition, professional development sessions are provided for teachers and other district staff.

## Library Staff across Iowa Utilizes the ICN

Public library staff across Iowa attended an informational meeting that explained revisions made to an accreditation program via the ICN on July 22.

A video session sponsored by the State Library of Iowa included over 90 of Iowa's library directors, trustees, and staff, which utilized 45

video sites in Iowa, connected by ICN's fiber-optic Network. The topic discussed was proposed changes made to "*In Service to Iowa*," which is the manual for the State Library's public library accreditation program.

Scott Dermont, a Library Consultant with the State Library of Iowa's said, "The benefit of using the

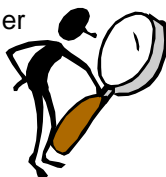
ICN is that we can reach a great number of people. Using the ICN [video services] gives the opportunity to see and interact more freely."



*"The ICN is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare."*

## ICN Customer Survey Results

In July 2010, ICN completed its annual customer survey to evaluate the satisfaction of customers. The survey was conducted internally using SurveyMonkey. We had 190 individuals complete the survey, which provided us valuable customer feedback.



Below are results of the survey:

- Almost 88 percent stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall satisfaction of services received. This is a five (5) percent increase from last year.

Over 82 percent indicated that the value of the ICN services was

either an excellent or good value as compared with a 75 percent score last year.

- Almost 90 percent indicated that they would be very likely or somewhat likely to recommend ICN services.

The [2010 customer survey analysis](#) can be viewed on ICN's website.

## Don't forget to visit ICN's website

Have you visited ICN's ([www.icn.state.ia.us](http://www.icn.state.ia.us)) website lately? There is a wealth of information posted, and ICN continues to update it frequently. ICN has separated the information conveniently, to be easily assessable.



If you are researching about ICN services the

information is listed under our "Services" page. If you are looking for more specific information or a particular topic check under the "Resources" page.

Don't forget to view other pages to stay up-to-date on ICN issues.



*"Do you have new staff,  
administrators or friends  
who might be interested  
in receiving this  
newsletter? Please pass  
it on and have them  
contact*

*[lori.larsen@iowa.gov](mailto:lori.larsen@iowa.gov) to  
be placed on the  
distribution list."*

*Remember to visit ICN's  
website at  
[www.icn.state.ia.us](http://www.icn.state.ia.us)  
to keep updated on all ICN  
related news.*



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## Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television's Connections

### Teaching with Energy in Grades K-5

October 05, 2010; Tuesday, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM; Audience: Educators

Energize your math, science, reading, writing and geography classes by developing lesson plans related to energy efficiency and renewable energies including wind, solar, and bio-fuels.

**Registration Deadline - Friday, September 24, 2010**



### Martha Speaks, Star of the Week

Wednesday, October 20, 2010; Audience: **Grades K-2**

Martha Speaks is an animated series on PBS KIDS. Aimed at viewers between the ages of four and seven, Martha's educational goal is to teach kids new words. The series stars Martha, a beloved family dog. She is accidentally fed soup — this gives her the power of speech and the chance to speak her mind to anyone that will listen.

**Registration Deadline - Tuesday, October 12, 2010**



### Financial Fitness Peer Education: Make a Million Challenge

October 14, 2010, Thursday, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Audience: **Grades 7-12**



Help students learn the secret of becoming a millionaire, and one of your students could earn \$1500. Family & Consumer Sciences teachers have an opportunity to enter students in the Financial Fitness Peer Education "Make a Million" Challenge for 2010-11. It's easy, fun, and your students will learn how to discover stocks and invest in the stock market.

**Registration Deadline - Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

#### For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

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